

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

The numbering of claims was objected to. Applicants recited three separate claims each numbered 71. For the purposes of examination, the Examiner renumbered the misnumbered claims 71-84 (starting from the second claim 71 on page 55) as claims 72-86. Renumbered dependent claims 78-81 were interpreted to depend from renumbered claim 77, and renumbered dependent claims 83-86 were interpreted to depend from renumbered claim 82. The Examiner requested that the numbering of the claims be appropriately corrected.

Claims 1-7, 11-16, 20-21, 26-28, 32-33, 38-43, 48-52, 56-57, 62-63, 66-68, 69-70, 74-77, 79-82, and 84-86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawler et al. U.S. Patent 5,699,107 (hereinafter "Lawler").

Claims 18-19 and 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler.

Claims 8-10, 17, 29-30, 34-36, 45-47, 54, 64-65, 72-73, 78, and 83 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler in view of Boyer et al. U.S. Patent Publication No. U.S. 2002/0026496.

Claim 62 was objected to because of a typographical error.

Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-62. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications based on the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

Applicants have corrected the numbering of the claims.

The Examiner's rejections of claims 63-86 are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' Reply

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to the claims because the claims were not numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claim previously presented. In particular, applicants recited three separate claims each numbered 71. Applicants have renumbered the misnumbered claims 71-84 (starting from the second claim 71 on page 55) as claims 72-86. The dependency of claims 78-81 and 83-86 was also corrected.

The Examiner also objected to claim 62 because of the phrase "... the television programming from the television programming from the present through the predetermined time period." Applicants have cancelled claim 62 and therefore this objection is moot.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of the Independent Claims

Each of independent claims 1, 26, 32, 38, 62, 63, 69, 77, and 82 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawler.

Applicants cancelled claims 1-62. The rejection of these claims is therefore moot.

Applicants' invention, as defined in independent claims 63, 69, 77, and 82, is directed to providing a user with the opportunity to select a program that will air outside a program listings time frame that is currently available to the user. Notifications are provided to the user that indicate the availability of the selected program when the selected program is in the current program listings time frame.

In rejecting the independent claims, the Examiner points to the "Every Week" feature of Lawler (see e.g., Lawler, col. 11, lines 53-67). As stated in column 11, lines 58-61, of Lawler, "[t]he Every Week button is displayed only if the program in the same time and channel slot for the next week has the same title as the selected program." In response to selecting the Every Week button for a particular program, a reminder is set that automatically moves from one week to the next. Lawler states that "[t]his type of reminder will remain

set until removed by a user and is useful for allowing a user to be reminded of, for example, successive episodes of a daily or weekly series by setting only a single reminder." Col. 12, lines 11-15.

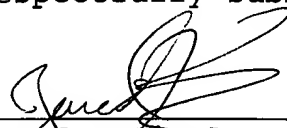
The Every Week feature does not provide the user with the opportunity to directly select a program that will air outside the program schedule time frame of Lawler's system. When program schedule information is received by the program guide of Lawler, the program guide determines whether the program title in a particular time and day slot is the same as the program title in the time and day slot of the week prior for which an Every Week reminder was set. If the program titles match, a reminder for the upcoming program is set without user interaction. At no point is a user of Lawler's system able to directly select a program that is not in the program schedule time frame as required by applicants' claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 63, 69, 77, and 82 are in condition for allowance. Claims 64-68, 70-76, 78-81, and 83-86 which depend from the independent claims are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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